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012242240
WPI Acc No: 1999-048347/199905
XRPX Acc No: N99-035462
 Hand-over and cell re-selection method for cellular radio system -
 creating message at base station containing information on neighbouring
 cells and sending to mobile station, with message containing information
 characterising neighbour cells
Patent Assignee: NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD (OYNO )
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Number of Countries: 083 Number of Patents: 009
Patent Family:
Patent No
                           Applicat No
            Kind
                   Date
                                               Date
EP 888026
             A2 19981230 EP 98304792
                                             19980617
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WO 9901005
             A1 19990107 WO 98FI551
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KR 2001013397 A
                 20010226 KR 99711397
                                         A 19991203 200154
Priority Applications (No Type Date): FI 972736 A 19970625
Cited Patents: No-SR.Pub
Patent Details:
Patent No Kind Lan Pq
                       Main IPC
                                  Filing Notes
            A2 E 15 H04Q-007/38
EP 888026
   Designated States (Regional): AL AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT
   LI LT LU LV MC MK NL PT RO SE SI
WO 9901005
            A1 E
                     H040-007/38
   Designated States (National): AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY CA CH CN CU
   CZ DE DK EE ES FI GB GE GH GM GW HU ID IL IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR
  LS LT LU LV MD MG MK MN MW MX NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK SL TJ TM
   TR TT UA UG US UZ VN YU ZW
   Designated States (Regional): AT BE CH CY DE DK EA ES FI FR GB GH GM GR
   IE IT KE LS LU MC MW NL OA PT SD SE SZ UG ZW
FI 9702736
            Α
                     H04Q-007/38
JP 11075237 A
                  12 H04Q-007/22
                     H04Q-007/38
                                 Based on patent WO 9901005
AU 9879208 A
                                  Previous Publ. patent FI 9702736
FI 105639
           В1
                     H04Q-007/38
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CN 1261510 A H040-007/38 KR 2001013397 A H040-007/38 US 6510146 В1 H040-007/00

Abstract (Basic): EP 888026 A

The method for transmitting information about neighbouring cells from a base station to a mobile station. The base station creates a message comprising information about the neighbouring cells and transmits it to the mobile station. In addition to the transmission frequencies used in the neighbouring cells, the base station also includes other information characterising the neighbouring cells in the

The base station includes information about the quality of service offered to the mobile stations by each neighbouring cell mentioned in the message. The quality of service of each cell is expressed by stating to which of the predetermined quality of service classes each of the mentioned neighbouring cells belong.

USE - For cell selection in system where cells have different quality of service available.

ADVANTAGE - More efficient use of data transfer resources for determining suitable new cell. Dwg.2/5

Title Torms: HAND; CELL; SELECT; METHOD; CELLULAR; RADIO; SYSTEM; MESSAGE; BASE; STATION; CONTAIN; INFORMATION; NEIGHBOURING; CELL; SEND; MOBILE; STATION; MESSAGE; CONTAIN; INFORMATION; CHARACTERISTIC; NEIGHBOURING; CELL

Derwent Class: W01; W02

International Patent Class (Main): H04Q-007/00; H04Q-007/22; H04Q-007/38

International Patent Class (Additional): H04Q-007/20; H04Q-007/30;

H04Q-007/32 File Segment: EPI

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6:		(11) International Publication Number	WO 98/59513	
H04Q 7/38, 7/32	A1	(43) International Publication Date:	30 December 1998 (30.12.98)	

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/FI98/00469

(22) International Filing Date:

2 June 1998 (02,06,98)

(30) Priority Data: 972722

24 June 1997 (24.06.97)

FI

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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BI', BJ, CI', CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

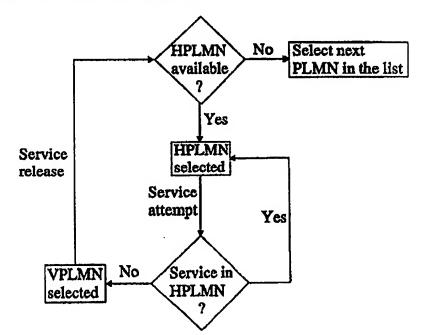
With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: MBTHOD OF OPERATING A DUAL MODE MOBILE TELEPHONE

(57) Abstract

A method of operating a mobile telephone within a geographical area having overlapping coverage from a first, GSM, network and a second, UMTS, network, where said GSM network is the home network (HPLMN) of the mobile communication device and sald GSM and UMTS networks provide respective first and second sets of services in said geographical area. The method comprises registering the telephone with the GSM network when a service of said first set is requested and registering the device with the UMTS network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested. The method provides the mobile telephone with a roaming for service function.



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METHOD OF OPERATING A DUAL MODE MOBILE TELEPHONE

The present invention relates to mobile communication systems and more particularly to a method of operating a mobile communication device within a geographical area having overlapping coverage from first and second mobile telephone networks, where said first network is the home network of the mobile communication device and said first and second networks provide respective first and second sets of services. The present invention also relates to a system for performing this method of operation.

A number of digital mobile telephone standards are in use throughout the world. These include the European GSM standard and the US TDMA standard. However, due to the ever increasing demand for mobile telephone services many, if not all of these standards are likely to be superseded by new standards offering increased network capacity and/or increased data transmission rates. In particular, the European Telecommunications
Standards Institute (ETSI) is currently developing a so called third generation mobile environment known as the Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) which it is expected will be operational by 2002. UMTS will operate in the 2GHz frequency band and will offer data transmission rates of up to 2Mbits/sec, compared to a rate of only 9.6Kbits/sec offered by the existing GSM standard.

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In the transition from second generation standards to third generation standards, there is likely to be a period when both second and third generation standards will have to coexist. It is also possible that such coexisting networks will be operated by different operators. As with all previous standards, networks implementing the new standards are likely to be introduced piece-meal, extending their geographical coverage over time. It may also be the case that the geographical coverage offered by third generation networks will always be less than that offered by second generation networks due to the need to sustain high bit rate transmissions with the former.

It is proposed (in Europe at least) to enable mobile stations registered with a third generation network as the "home" network (i.e. the network to which the mobile stations subscribe) to transfer to a second generation network when the stations are outside the coverage area of the home network, with appropriate cross-billing agreements between the network operators, to alleviate the possible geographical limitations. This transfer will operate in substantially the same way as the "roaming" function of conventional GSM networks (GSM 03.22) where a station can register with an alternative network when the RF connection between the

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mobile station and the home network is too weak to support a traffic channel. Of course third generation terminals will have to be dual mode, e.g. UMTS/GSM, in order to take advantage of this facility.

The inventors of the present invention have addressed the problem of how mobile stations registered with earlier generation networks, e.g. second generation networks, as their home network may gain access to new services only available through new generation networks, e.g. third generation networks. This may be a requirement of reciprocal arrangements between second and third generation network operators. As far as the inventors are aware this problem has not been previously addressed.

According to the present invention there is provided a method of operating a mobile communication device within a geographical area having overlapping coverage from first and second mobile telephone networks, where said first network is the home network of the mobile communication device and said first and second networks provide respective first and second sets of services in said geographical area, the method comprising registering the device with said first network when a service of said first set is requested and registering the device with said second network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested.

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Typically, although not essentially, the overall geographical coverage of said second network is less than that of said first network, as is likely to be the case in the period following the introduction of a new mobile telephone standard which is implemented by said second network.

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Preferably, a service provided by said second network, but not by said first network, is a high transmission rate service, that is at a higher transmission rate than is possible with services provided by said first network. Examples of high bit rate services are internet browsing, videophone, and data downloading.

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The request for a service may be made by the mobile communication device, e.g. in response to a user input, or by the first network, e.g. in response to an incoming call made to the mobile communication device. In either case, in the event that a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested, registration with said second network may be carried out automatically under the control of said first network. In this event, there is no need for the user of the mobile communication device to be aware of the change of

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registration. Alternatively, a decision on a change of registration may be made by a user via a user interface of the mobile communication device.

In one embodiment of the present invention, said first network is a GSM network and said second network is a UMTS network and said mobile communication device is a dual mode UMTS/GSM device.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a mobile telecommunication system comprising at least first and second mobile telephone networks having an overlapping geographical area of coverage and a multiplicity of mobile communication devices, wherein said first network is the home network of the mobile communication devices and said first and second networks are arranged to provide respective first and second sets of telephonic services in said geographical area, the system comprising control means for registering a communication device with said first network when a service of said first set is requested and for registering the device with said second network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested.

The control means may comprise means associated with each of the mobile communication devices for transmitting a deregistration request to the first network and for transmitting a registration request to the second network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested. Alternatively, the control means may comprise means associated with the first network for responding to a request from a communication device for a service of said second set, but not of said first set, by re-registering the communication device with the second network.

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The mobile communication devices may be, for example, mobile telephones, combined mobile telephone/personal digital assistant devices, or other devices which use wireless telephonic communication.

For a better understanding of the present invention and in order to show how the same may be carried into effect reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows schematically the geographical coverage area of example second and third generation mobile telephone networks;

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Figure 2 shows in block diagram form the architectures of the second and third generation networks of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a flow diagram of the operation of a mobile station in the coverage area of the networks of Figure 1;

Figure 4 shows at the signaling level an implementation of the method of Figure 3 for circuit switched transmission; and

Figure 5 shows at the signaling level an implementation of the method of Figure 3 for packet switched transmission.

10 As already noted above, in Europe, UMTS networks are likely to be introduced with only limited geographical coverage. This situation is illustrated in Figure 1 where the coverage 1 provided by the UMTS network falls within the coverage area 2 of a pre-existing GSM network. When a UMTS compatible mobile station (MS) 3, which has the UMTS network as its home network (or home public land mobile network HPLMN), is located within the UMTS 15 network coverage area 1, the MS 3 is registered with the UMTS network and is able to make use of all the services provided by that network (or at least those services to which the MS user has subscribed). Providing that the MS is also GSM compatible, and that an appropriate agreement exists between the operators of the UMTS and GSM networks, when the MS detects that it has moved outside of the UMTS network coverage area 1 it is able to 20 register with the GSM network (as a visiting public land mobile network VPLMN) and to make use of the services provided by the GSM network. The services provided by the GSM network are likely to be more ilmited than those provided by the UMTS network but this disadvantage is more than offset by the increased coverage area available to the UMTS network subscriber. This arrangement is similar in principle to the 'roaming for coverage' 25 function available with current GSM MSs, e.g. which operates when a MS moves from one country to another, as defined in GSM specification 03.22.

The architectures of the GSM and UMTS networks are shown schematically in Figure 2 where the dual-mode GSM/UMTS MS 3 communicates with either the UMTS BSS (base station subsystem) 4 and the GSM/GPRS (global packet radio service) core network 5 or with the GSM/DCS BSS 6 and the GSM/GPRS core network 7. The two core networks 5,7 cooperate according to a roaming agreement between the two network operators.

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Consider now the case where the MS 3 is registered with the GSM network as its HPLMN.

The MS 3 may make use of the GSM services throughout the GSM coverage area 2,

Including the UMTS coverage area 1 because of the overlapping coverage which exists

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there. However, if the MS 3 requires to make use of a service provided by a UMTS network (i.e. as a VPLMN) but not by the GSM network, the MS 3 must 'roam' for that service. This is different from the conventional 'roaming for coverage' offered by GSM and is not defined in GSM specification 03.22. Figure 3 is a flow diagram of the roaming for service operation illustrating that the HPLMN will be selected by the MS 3 so long as that network is available and the selected service is provided by the HPLMN.

Roaming for service differs from traditional roaming for coverage in that, with the former, location updates and thus location registration are not necessarily required because the MS 3 can remain registered with the home GSM network which knows the location of the MS 3.

Figure 4 illustrates a possible implementation scenario for the roaming for service function where data transmission between the MS 3 and the networks is by circuit switched transmission (i.e. where one or more traffic channels are reserved for the duration of the transmission). The following legends are used in Figure 4:

MS Mobile Station

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RAN Radio Access Network

CN Core Network

GSM-op GSM operator, owner of the first network UMTS-op UMTS operator, owner of the second network

The following table contains a description of the messages of Figure 4:

A-HORequired indication from the radio access network that

handover is needed

MAP-prepare-HO handover request between networks

A-HORequest handover request to the radio access network A-HOAck acceptance of handover request from the radio

access network

MAP-prepare-HO-resp response to handover request between networks A-HOCommand handover command to the radio access network

HOCommand handover command to the MS

HOAccess MS sends access attempt to the radio access

network

A-HOdetect the radio access network informs network that

the MS's access attempt has been detected indication that handover process is ongoing

MAP-process-access-

sig

HOComplete the radio access network informs the MS that

handover process has been completed

A-HOComplete the radio access network informs network that

handover process has been completed

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MAP-send-end-sig the second network informs the first network that

handover process has been completed

A-cir-command the first network commands the radio access network to release reserved radio resources

Signaling can be divided into eight main steps as follows:

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1. The MS sends a service request with quality of service (QoS) parameters to the GSM network. These QoS parameters may include bit transmission rate, bit error rate, and transmission delay.

- 2. The GSM network analyses the available resources for the service. The GSM network detects that it cannot provide the requested quality of service thus it sends a handover request to the UMTS network.
- The UMTS network accepts the handover request. The MS is commanded to the
 UMTS network with handover command and the MS makes an access attempt after the
 MS has changed to the UMTS network's cell.
 - 4. Handover access has been detected by the UMTS network and the resources of the GSM network are released.
 - 5. The MS continues the service request signaling with the UMTS network.
- 6. The UMTS network starts billing procedure in order to bill the GSM network for the service.
 - 7. When the service is released the billing procedure is stopped.
 - 8. The MS selects the GSM network if it is available.
- Figure 5 illustrates a possible implementation scenario for the roaming for service function where data transmission between the MS 3 and the networks is by packet switched transmission (i.e. where transmission time slots are dynamically allocated for transmission according to demand and priority). The following legends are used in Figure 5:

	MS	Mobile Station
25	BSS	Base Station Subsystem
	SGSN	Service GPRS Support Node
	GPRS	General Packet Radio Service
	GGSN	Gateway GPRS Support Node
	RAN	Radio Access Network
30	IP	Destination Internet Protocol Node

The following table contains a description of the messages of Figure 5:

-8-

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SENDER(session, application session in the MS requests quality of sender_Tspec) service described in sender_Tspec UPCALL(session, error message with code "quality of service cannot be provided" resv_error) MM-RA-update routing area update message SGSN context request context for the MS is requested **GTP-SGSN** context context request between two GGSNs request **GTP-SGSN** context context request confirmation response location canceled from the previous SGSN Cancel location Cancel location ack location cancellation acknowledgment SGSN context the MS context activation accepted by GGSN response MM-RArouting area updating confirmation updateAccepted path(sender, quality of service request to the destination IP sender_Tspec) node rsvp(Tspec) merged quality of service request to the previous IP node UPCALL(session, connection and quality of service confirmation resv_confirm) RELEASE(session) session release resvTear(session) resource release between IP nodes

Again, signaling can be divided into eight main steps as follows:

- Application in the MS sends a service request with quality of service parameter to the GSM network.
 - 2. Available radio resources are analysed and a service request is rejected due to the lack of resources. The MS selects the UMTS network.
 - The GSM and the UMTS network exchange information about the MS and finally the UMTS network accepts the MS to access the network.
- Application in the MS sends a service request with quality of service parameter to the UMTS network.
 - 5. The UMTS network has radio resources available and it sends path-message to the destination IP node. Resources for the session are found and the MS is confirmed about the resource reservations.
- 15 6. Data transfer between application starts. Billing and roaming starts.
 - 7. Application is closed or timer expires. The session is closed and resource reservations are released.

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8. The MS selects the GSM network. The UMTS network bills the GSM network for the service.

In the implementations of Figures 4 and 5, it is the GSM network which determines, from the request made by the MS, whether or not it can provide the requested service and therefore whether or not the MS must be handed over to the UMTS network. In this way, the operation can be transparent to the user who is unaware that a handover has occurred. In an alternative approach however, the MS may be configured such that it is able to determine when a requested service is not provided by the GSM network. The MS may then automatically, or following a prompt from the user, de-register with the GSM network and subsequently register with the UMTS network.

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UMTS networks.

It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art that further modifications may be made to the above described embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, the invention may be used to provide service roaming between any two or more networks which provide different numbers or levels of service, e.g. two GSM or two

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Glossary

BSS Base Station Subsystem

DCS Digital Cellular System (at 1800 MHz)

DECT Digital European Cordless Telecommunications

5 HLR Home Location Register

HPLMN Home Public Land Mobile Network

1ETF Internet Engineering Task Force

IMSI International Mobile Subscriber Identity

IP Internet Protocol

10 GPRS General Packet Radio Service

GSM Global System for Mobile Communications

MS Mobile Station

RSVP Reservation Set-up Protocol

UMTS Universal Mobile Telecommunications System

Claims

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- 1. A method of operating a mobile communication device within a geographical area having overlapping coverage from first and second mobile telephone networks, where said first network is the home network of the mobile communication device and said first and second networks provide respective first and second sets of services in said geographical area, the method comprising registering the device with said first network when a service of said first set is requested and registering the device with said second network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested.
 - 2. A method according to claim 2, wherein the overall geographical coverage of said second network is less than that of said first network.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a service provided by said second network, but not by said first network, is a high transmission rate service.
 - 4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the request for a service is made by the mobile communication device in response to a user input.

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- 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the request for a service is made by the first network in response to an incoming call made to the mobile communication device.
- 25 6. A method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein, in the event that a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested, registration with said second network is carried out automatically under the control of said first network.
- A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said first network is
 a GSM network and said second network is a UMTS network and said mobile
 communication device is a dual mode UMTS/GSM device.
 - 8. A mobile telecommunication system comprising at least first and second mobile telephone networks having an overlapping geographical area of coverage and a multiplicity of mobile communication devices (3), wherein said first network is the home network of the mobile communication devices (3) and said first and second networks are arranged to

provide respective first and second sets of telephonic services in said geographical area, the system comprising control means (5) for registering a communication device (3) with said first network when a service of said first set is requested and for registering the device (3) with said second network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested.

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- 9. A system according to claim 8, wherein the control means may comprise means associated with each of the mobile communication devices (3) for transmitting a deregistration request to the first network and for transmitting a registration request to the second network when a service of said second set, but not of said first set, is requested.
- 10. A system according to claim 8, wherein the control means comprises means associated with the first network for responding to a request from a communication device(3) for a service of said second set, but not of said first set, by re-registering the communication device (3) with the second network.

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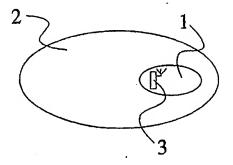


Figure 1

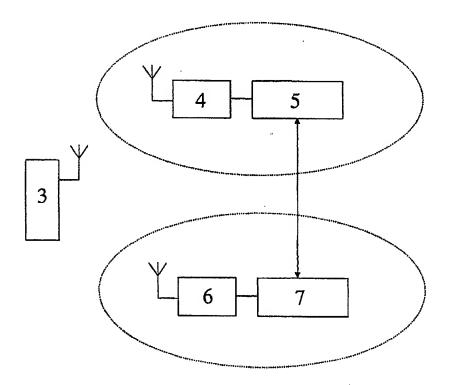


Figure 2

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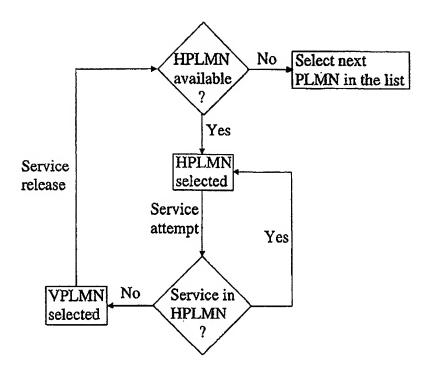
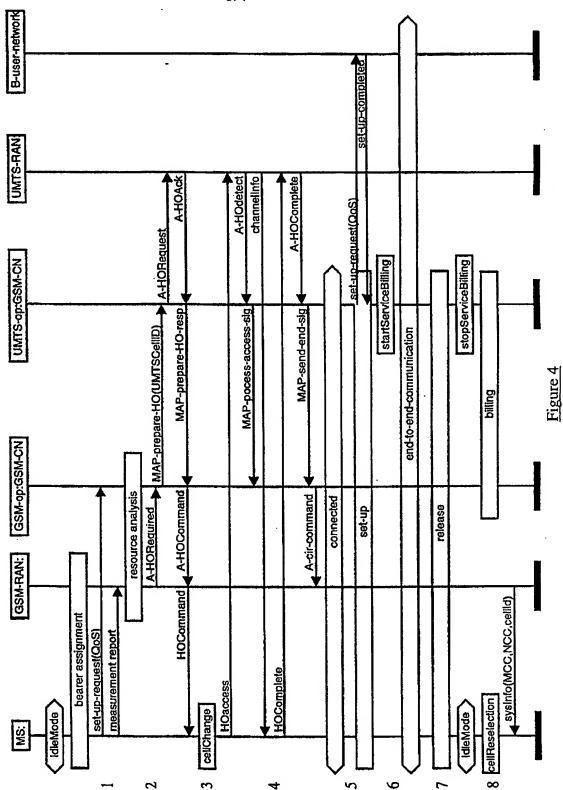
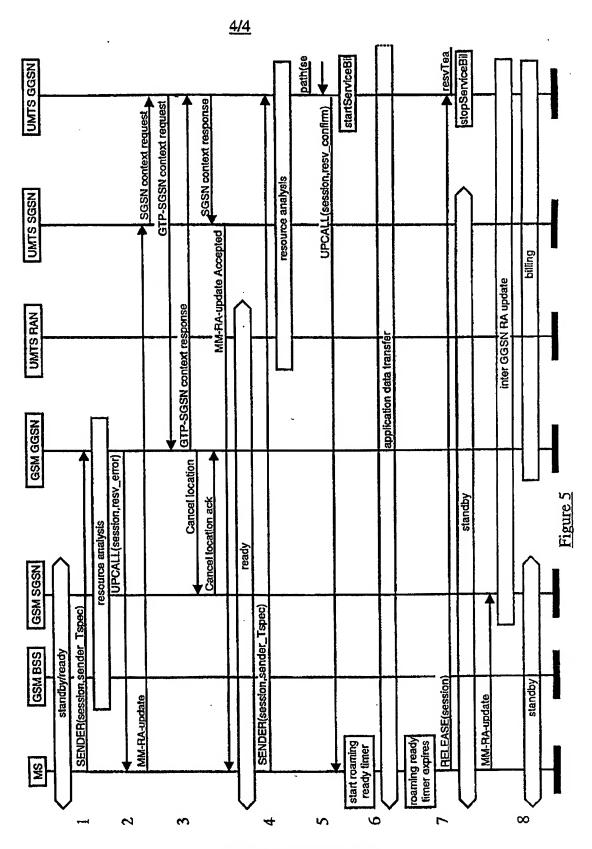


Figure 3





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International application No.

			PC1/P1 98/U	U403			
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c. Docu	MENT'S CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the rele	vant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
Х	WO 9638992 A1 (TELEFONAKTIEBOLA 5 December 1996 (05.12.96), 11ne 27 - page 12, line 32	GET LM ERICSSO page 9,	N),	1,2,4,6,8-10			
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^	WO 9628947 A1 (NOKIA MOBILE PHO 19 Sept 1996 (19.09.96), pa line 34; page 11, line 4 - line 16 - line 20, page 16, page 17, line 15 - line 29	1-6,8-10					
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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